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MONTHLY PRICES

The December 2017 average price received by farmers for **corn** in Minnesota was \$2.98 per bushel. This was \$0.06 above the November price but \$0.23 below the December 2016 price.

The December 2017 average price received by farmers for **soybeans**, at \$8.98 per bushel, was down \$0.09 from the November price and down \$0.31 from the December 2016 price.

The December 2017 price for **spring wheat** was \$5.55 per bushel, up \$0.03 from November and up \$0.81 from December 2016.

All hay prices in Minnesota averaged \$107.00 per ton in December, down \$2.00 from the November price but \$22.00 per ton more than December 2016. The **alfalfa hay** price was \$121.00 per ton, down \$13.00 from November but \$28.00 above a year ago. The **other hay** price was \$82.00, down \$2.00 from November but \$23.00 above a year ago.

The December average price was \$17.10 per cwt for **milk**, down \$1.60 from November and down \$2.50 per cwt from one year ago. Prices received for **milk cows** for dairy herd replacement averaged \$1,400 per head as of January 1, 2018.

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Prices Received by Farmers - Minnesota and United States

	Minnesota			United States		
	December 2016	November 2017	December 2017	December 2016	November 2017	December 2017
	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)
Barley, allbu	4.14	4.43	4.32	5.12	4.59	4.38
Beans, dry ediblecwt	30.20	27.80	26.20	30.90	27.30	27.20
Cornbu	3.21	2.92	2.98	3.32	3.15	3.23
Hay, all baledton	85.00	109.00	107.00	123.00	138.00	136.00
Alfalfaton	93.00	134.00	121.00	127.00	148.00	148.00
Otherton	59.00	84.00	82.00	117.00	118.00	118.00
Oatsbu	2.14	2.16	1.97	2.35	2.68	2.94
Soybeansbu	9.29	9.07	8.98	9.64	9.22	9.30
Spring wheatbu	4.74	5.52	5.55	4.66	5.78	5.61
Sunflowers, allcwt	18.70	17.00	17.50	17.20	16.60	17.00
Milk, allcwt	19.60	18.70	17.10	18.90	18.10	17.20
Milk cows ¹²head	1,490.00	1,560.00	1,400.00	1,620.00	1,610.00	1,520.00

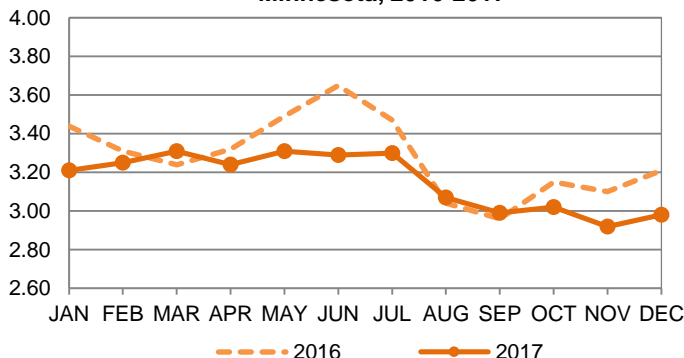
¹ Animals sold for dairy herd replacement only. Prices available for January, April, July, and October. ² Milk cow prices are for January 1, 2017, October 1, 2017, and January 1, 2018.

Livestock Prices Received by Farmers - United States

	December 2016	November 2017	December 2017
	(dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)
Calvescwt	148.00	177.00	174.00
Cattle, all beefcwt	111.00	119.00	118.00
Cows ¹cwt	61.10	63.40	62.00
Steers and heiferscwt	113.00	121.00	120.00
Hogs, allcwt	43.10	50.00	48.60
Barrows and giltscwt	43.60	50.20	48.80
Sowscwt	27.60	44.60	41.80
Eggs (market) ²doz	1.02	1.23	1.19

¹ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter. ² Mid-month price. Also referred to as table eggs.

Dollars per Bushel
Corn Price Received by Farmers, Minnesota, 2016-2017



CATTLE & CALVES

All cattle and calves in Minnesota as of January 1, 2018, totaled 2.35 million head. **Beef cows**, at 365,000 head, were down 1 percent from last year. **Milk cows**, at 455,000, were also down 1 percent from last year.

All heifers 500 pounds and over, at 565,000 head, were up 2 percent from last year. **Heifers for beef cow replacement** were up 5,000 head at 100,000 head; **heifers for milk cow replacement**, at 290,000 head, were down 2 percent from the previous year; and **all other heifers** were up 6 percent to 175,000 head.

Steers weighing 500 pounds and over were down 5 percent from last year to 475,000 head. **Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over** were unchanged at 35,000 head. **Calves under 500 pounds** on January 1, 2018, totaled 455,000 head, down 7 percent from last year.

The 2017 **calf crop** was estimated at 790,000 head, down 1 percent from last year. **Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter in all feedlots on January 1, 2018, totaled 395,000 head, up 5 percent from one year ago.

Cattle and Calves, Number by Class – Minnesota and United States: January 1, 2017 and 2018

Class	Minnesota			United States		
	2017	2018	2018 as % of 2017	2017	2018	2018 as % of 2017
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
All cattle and calves	2,410	2,350	98	93,705	94,399	101
All cows that have calved	830	820	99	40,559	41,123	101
Beef cows	370	365	99	31,213	31,723	102
Milk cows	460	455	99	9,346	9,400	101
Heifers 500 pounds and over	555	565	102	20,132	20,245	101
For beef cow replacement	95	100	105	6,368	6,131	96
For milk cow replacement	295	290	98	4,754	4,781	101
Other heifers	165	175	106	9,010	9,332	104
Steers 500 pounds and over	500	475	95	16,384	16,352	100
Bulls 500 pounds and over	35	35	100	2,244	2,252	100
Calves under 500 pounds	490	455	93	14,386	14,427	100
Cattle on feed ¹	375	395	105	13,067	14,006	107

¹ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. Cattle and calves on feed are included in the cattle inventory estimates by classes.

Calf Crop – Minnesota and United States: 2016 and 2017

	Minnesota			United States		
	2016	2017	2017 as % of 2016	2016	2017	2017 as % of 2016
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Calf crop	800	790	99	35,093	35,808	102

All cattle and calves in the United States, as of January 1, 2018, totaled 94.4 million head, 1 percent above the 93.7 million head on January 1, 2017.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 41.1 million head, were 1 percent above the 40.6 million head on January 1, 2017. Beef cows, at 31.7 million head, were up 2 percent from a year ago. Milk cows, at 9.40 million head, were up 1 percent from the previous year.

All heifers 500 pounds and over, as of January 1, 2018, totaled 20.2 million head, 1 percent above the 20.1 million head on January 1, 2017. Beef replacement heifers, at 6.13 million head, were down 4 percent from a year ago. Milk replacement heifers, at 4.78 million head, were up 1 percent from the previous year. Other heifers, at 9.33 million head, were 4 percent above a year earlier.

Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, as of January 1, 2018, totaled 16.4 million head, down slightly from January 1, 2017. Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, as of January 1, 2018, totaled 2.25 million head, up slightly from January 1, 2017. Calves under 500 pounds, as of January 1, 2018, totaled 14.4 million head, up slightly from January 1, 2017.

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for all feedlots totaled 14.0 million head on January 1, 2018. The inventory is up 7 percent from the January 1, 2017 total of 13.1 million head. Cattle on feed, in feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head, accounted for 82.0 percent of the total cattle on feed on January 1, 2018, up 1 percent from the previous year. The combined total of calves under 500 pounds and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds (outside of feedlots) is 26.1 million head, 2 percent below one year ago.

The 2017 calf crop in the United States was estimated at 35.8 million head, up 2 percent from last year's calf crop. Calves born during the first half of 2017 were estimated at 26.0 million head, up 2 percent from the first half of 2016. Calves born during the second half of 2017 were estimated at 9.81 million head, 27 percent of the total 2017 calf crop.

SHEEP, LAMBS & WOOL

All sheep and lambs inventory in Minnesota as of January 1, 2018, totaled 130,000 head, unchanged from 2017. Total **breeding stock**, at 90,000 head, was 1 percent lower than a year ago. Compared with last year, **market sheep and lambs** increased 3 percent to 40,000 head. The **lamb crop** for 2017 totaled 90,000 head. **Wool** production for the State was 700,000 pounds, down 11 percent from last year.

All sheep and lambs inventory in the United States on January 1, 2018 totaled 5.23 million head, down slightly from 2017. Breeding sheep inventory at 3.83 million head on January 1, 2018, decreased 1 percent from 3.88 million head on January 1, 2017. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.01 million head, were 1 percent below last year. Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2018 totaled 1.40 million head, up 2 percent from January 1, 2017. Market lambs comprised 94 percent of the total market inventory. Market sheep comprised the remaining 6 percent of total market inventory.

The 2017 lamb crop of 3.20 million head was down 2 percent from 2016. The 2017 lambing rate was 105 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2017, unchanged from 2016.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2017 was 24.7 million pounds, down 5 percent from 2016. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 3.44 million head, down 4 percent from 2016. The average price paid for wool sold in 2017 was \$1.47 per pound for a total value of 36.4 million dollars, down 3 percent from 37.7 million dollars in 2016.

Sheep death loss during 2017 totaled 213 thousand head, down 2 percent from 2016. Lamb death loss decreased 2 percent from 373 thousand head to 367 thousand head in 2017.

All Sheep and Lambs, Number by Class – Minnesota and United States: January 1, 2017 and 2018

Class	Minnesota			United States		
	2017	2018	2018 as % of 2017	2017	2018	2018 as % of 2017
	<i>(1,000 head)</i>	<i>(1,000 head)</i>	<i>(percent)</i>	<i>(1,000 head)</i>	<i>(1,000 head)</i>	<i>(percent)</i>
All sheep and lambs	130.0	130.0	100	5,250.0	5,230.0	100
Total breeding sheep	91.0	90.0	99	3,875.0	3,830.0	99
Ewes	72.0	74.0	103	3,045.0	3,005.0	99
Rams	5.0	4.0	80	170.0	170.0	100
Replacement lambs	14.0	12.0	86	660.0	655.0	99
Total market	39.0	40.0	103	1,375.0	1,400.0	102

Lamb Crop – Minnesota and United States: 2016 and 2017

	Minnesota			United States		
	2016	2017	2017 as % of 2016	2016	2017	2017 as % of 2016
	<i>(1,000 head)</i>	<i>(1,000 head)</i>	<i>(percent)</i>	<i>(1,000 head)</i>	<i>(1,000 head)</i>	<i>(percent)</i>
Lamb crop	90.0	90.0	100	3,250.0	3,200.0	98

Wool Production, Price and Value – Minnesota and United States: 2016 and 2017

Class	Minnesota			United States		
	2016	2017	2017 as % of 2016	2016	2017	2017 as % of 2016
Sheep shorn.....(1,000 head)	127.0	112.0	88	3,585.0	3,440.0	96
Weight per fleece.....(pounds)	6.2	6.3	102	7.3	7.2	99
Production.....(1,000 pounds)	790	700	89	26,050	24,700	95
Price per pound.....(dollars)	0.62	0.60	97	1.45	1.47	101
Value ¹(1,000 dollars)	490	420	86	37,721	36,424	97

¹ Production multiplied by marketing year average price. United States value is the summation of State values.

GOATS & KIDS

Meat and other goat inventory in Minnesota as of January 1, 2018, totaled 24,000 head, up 9 percent from January 2017. Total **milk** goat inventory, at 14,000 head, was up 17 percent from the previous year.

All goats and kids inventory in the United States on January 1, 2018 totaled 2.62 million head, down 1 percent from 2017. Breeding goat inventory totaled 2.16 million head, down slightly from 2017. Does one year old and older, at 1.60 million head, were 1 percent below last year's number. Market goats and kids totaled 459 thousand head, down 2 percent from a year ago.

Kid crop for 2017 totaled 1.64 million head for all goats, down slightly from 2016.

Meat and all other goats totaled 2.10 million head on January 1, 2018, down 1 percent from 2017. Milk goat inventory was 380 thousand head, up 2 percent from January 1, 2017, while Angora goats were down 7 percent, totaling 142 thousand head.

Mohair production in the United States during 2017 was 725 thousand pounds. Goats and kids clipped totaled 133 thousand head. Average weight per clip was 5.5 pounds. Mohair price was \$5.00 per pound with a value of 3.62 million dollars.

Goat Inventory – Selected States and United States: 2017 and 2018

	Milk Goats		Meat & Other Goats	
	2017	2018	2017	2018
	(head)	(head)	(head)	(head)
California.....	41,000	40,000	87,000	80,000
Iowa.....	30,500	31,000	32,000	35,000
Minnesota	12,000	14,000	22,000	24,000
Tennessee.....	7,000	7,500	110,000	104,000
Texas.....	22,000	26,000	790,000	795,000
Wisconsin ¹	44,000	47,000	(NA)	(NA)
United States	373,000	380,000	2,115,000	2,098,000

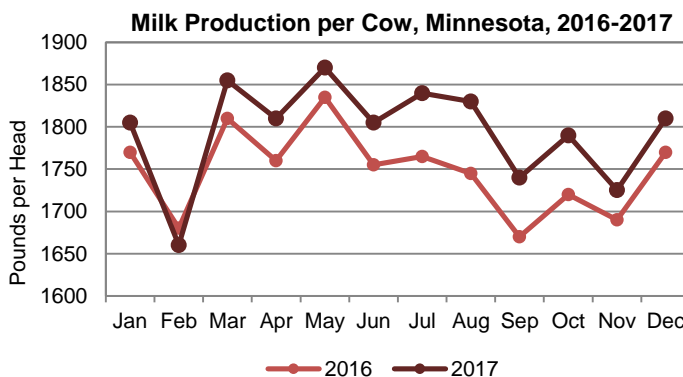
(NA) Not Available ¹ Beginning in 2016, Meat and Other Goats for Wisconsin is no longer published individually. It is now included in the Unpublished States total.

MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in Minnesota during December 2017 totaled 825 million pounds, up 1 percent from the previous December. The average number of milk cows during December, at 456,000 head, was the same as last month but down 5,000 from last year. Monthly production per cow averaged 1,810 pounds, up 40 pounds from last December.

Milk production in the 23 major States during December totaled 17.0 billion pounds, up 1.2 percent from December 2016. November revised production at 16.2 billion pounds, was up 1.0 percent from November 2016. The November revision represented a decrease of 24 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,943 pounds for December, 11 pounds above December 2016. This is the highest production per cow for the month of December since the 23 State series began in 2003. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.74 million head, 54,000 head more than December 2016, and 3,000 head more than November 2017.

Milk production in the United States during the October - December quarter totaled 53.1 billion pounds, up 1.1 percent from the October - December quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the United States during the quarter was 9.40 million head, 3,000 head less than the July - September quarter, but 55,000 head more than the same period last year.



Milk Cows and Production – Selected States: December 2016 and 2017

State	Milk Cows ¹		Milk Per Cow ²		Milk Production ²		
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	Change from 2016
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
California	1,756	1,742	1,925	1,935	3,380	3,371	-0.3
Idaho	600	600	2,015	2,010	1,209	1,206	-0.2
Michigan	425	428	2,140	2,180	910	933	+2.5
Minnesota	461	456	1,770	1,810	816	825	+1.1
New Mexico	325	332	2,055	2,075	668	689	+3.1
New York	620	625	2,010	1,950	1,246	1,219	-2.2
Pennsylvania	525	525	1,735	1,745	911	916	+0.5
Texas	490	515	1,945	2,000	953	1,030	+8.1
Wisconsin	1,279	1,276	1,970	1,995	2,520	2,546	+1.0
23-State Total	8,683	8,737	1,932	1,943	16,777	16,974	+1.2

1. Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2. Excludes milk sucked by calves.